

line 17, replace the heading with the following new heading:

2. Description of the Related Art

Page 3, replace the paragraph beginning at line 18 with the following paragraph:

It is known that allergic reactions are generated by the liberation of mediators from target cells, such as basophils or mastocytes, having high-affinity surface receptors for IgE, which are occupied by IgE antibodies. The minimum requirement for mediator liberation to occur is that two IgE molecules recognising the same allergen are cross-linked, which in turn cross-link the receptor, resulting in the transduction of an activating signal within the cell. If only one IgE molecule is able to bind the allergen, no cell activation ensues, but the binding site of the IgE would be occupied, preventing cell activation upon exposure to native allergen. The use of a single IgE-binding epitope has therefore been claimed to be a suitable approach for the treatment of allergic diseases (Ball T. et al., J. Biol. Chem. 269, pp. 28323-28328 (1994), EP-A-0714662).

Page 4, delete the heading of line 4 in its entirety.

replace the paragraph beginning at line 5 with the following paragraph:

US Patent 4,946,945 describes a protein conjugate useful in immunotherapy, composed of a biological response modifier (BRM) and an allergen. Said conjugate could be combined with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Cytokine, bacterial, fungal and viral immunopotentiators and thymus hormones are disclosed as suitable BRMs for use in said document.

delete the heading of line 19 in its entirety.

Page 8, replace the paragraph beginning at line 20 with the following paragraph:

C6
Preferably, the compound according to the invention is selected from the group consisting of the peptides having the following amino acid sequences:

Page 13, line 16, replace the heading with the following new heading:

C7
Brief Description of the Drawings

Page 15, line 18, replace the heading with the following new heading:

C8
Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Page 23, replace the paragraph beginning at line 11 with the following paragraph:

C9
Thus, a peptide (SEQ ID NO. 2) of the sequence HEIKKVLVPGCHGS corresponding to amino acids 11-24 of Der pII is obtained with solid-phase synthesis using methods well known to those skilled in the art with a biotin moiety added at its amino-terminal end. The peptide is insolubilised on neutravidin-coated plates and allowed to react with the serum of atopic individual. Results of such an experiment are shown in Figure 2. Thus, the serum of an atopic individual with IgE antibodies towards Der pII was added to a neutravidin-coated plate which had been pre-incubated with 12-mer peptides covering the sequences 7-39 of Der pII with an 11 amino acid overlap. No binding above the background value was observed for any of the 22 peptides, indicating the absence of IgE antibodies capable to bind to such sequences.

replace the paragraph beginning at line 29 with the following paragraph:

C10
This was established using a similar assay procedure as described above for IgE antibodies, except that a goat anti-human IgG antibodies was used for the detection of IgG antibodies and that a 1/100 dilution of serum was used. Representative results of such an experiment are given in Figure 3, from which it can be seen that significant binding occurred in